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So even the accustomed exertion tells, and no scholar can afford to neglect the economy of eyesight. Why should not Hebrew be made as legible as Greek?

GREY HUBERT SKIPWITH.

### SPANISH JEWISH HISTORY.

DR. KAYSERLING has done me a certain amount of injustice in his criticism of my book on the Jews in Spain by neglecting to observe the conditions under which my entries have been printed. The following passage from the prefatory letter to my list of documents, for it claims to be nothing more, will explain what I mean.

“Nor could I check or control in any way the entries of the archivists, which I have left in exactly the same form as regards spelling and punctuation as that in which I found them. This will account for the various ways in which proper names are spelt; these I have left as I found them, merely collecting together the various forms in the indexes at the end. To have attempted to check them by the documents at the time would have reduced my spoil to one-tenth of its present extent, to have checked them by correspondence afterwards was beyond my power.”

Again, in the introductory note to the *Index Nominum*, p. 250, I have further pointed out the necessity of inserting necessarily uncertain orthography of the proper names contained in my lists.

“The actual forms of the names in this list must be used with caution, since they are no less than four stages off the originals, being printed versions of my transcripts of the archivists’ abstracts of the official copies in the Registros of the original documents, which were probably not distinguished by any rigid orthography of proper names.”

Everybody who has to do with mediaeval documents, especially those relating to Jews, must be familiar with the terrible hash that the Christian scribes made with the unfamiliar Jewish names. I have made some of the same obvious corrections in the *Index Nominum*, and some of these Dr. Kayserling has repeated after me. But his unrivalled knowledge of Spanish Jewish history has enabled him to add considerably to these emendations which have made his criticism so valuable, but in justice to myself I would venture to emphasize the fact that in the majority of instances he is correcting the scribes and not my transcripts of their entries. Though on the other hand

some of his strictures apply to my own mistakes in my transcripts of the annual entries, I have little doubt but it would have been impossible for me to remedy this without a further journey to Spain.

With regard to Dr. Kayserling's statement that I have included items not relating to Jews, I would point out that each of the three cases which he refers to in that connexion, Jayme de Monjuich, Jayme de Call, and Mose de Peralta had all been previously queried by myself (see Nos. 165, 565, 600). In the case of the last, if my transcripts are correct, I found him once referred to as "Judio," 532. The entries relating to the two others are exactly of the same kind as those given about undoubted Jews.

Dr. Kayserling draws attention to the fact that in several instances I have repeated in my calendar documents printed or referred to elsewhere, but he surely would not have desired that I should omit them for that reason; all calendars of documents only include any that have been previously utilized, as it might easily occur that they might be wanted again. My entries would have been even more incomplete than they are if I had not included these items, which after all do not take up more than three or four pages of my calendar.

With regard to the omissions which Dr. Kayserling points out, especially in the Barcelona Records, after the first forty Registros I have explained their causes in the Introduction, page xv. I have observed that the addenda given by him on pp. 491-2 mostly begin with the letter A. I had time to copy out the entries, s. v. "Judios," only in the second set of indexes, which are arranged alphabetically. I trust that Dr. Kayserling has copied out the Jewish entries for the remainder of the alphabet, and will print somewhere those ranging from B to Z. As regards the Inquisition Records at Simancas, I drew attention to the huge mass of these in my Introduction, pp. xlv-vi.

I was interested to learn that such an authority as Dr. Kayserling dissents from the generally accepted identifications of Nachmanides with Bonastruc de Porta. I observe that he considers that he has conclusively proved the contrary so far back as 1865. To this I would remark that as recently as 1887 M. M. Isidore Loeb still remained unconvinced. At that date he then stated in the *Revue des Études Juives*, XV, 17 . . . "Tout le monde est d'accord que ce Bonastruc de Porta, maître, est notre Moïse Nahmani, et que la controverse dont il a fait la relation est celle de 1263." I am content to err with "tout le monde."

JOSEPH JACOBS.